

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

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DEPT FOR AF/W-MCGUIRE AND FOR AID; LAGOS FOR AGATT

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EPAP, GH

SUBJ: COMMISSIONER REQUESTS ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING
COMMODITY EXCHANGE INFORMATION

REFS: (A) ACCRA 2398; (B) ACCRA 2956

1. COMMISSIONER FOR ECONOMIC PLANNING, DR. ROBERT GARDINER, ASKED CHARGE (LINEHAN) FOR INFORMATION ON OPERATION OF U.S. COMMODITY EXCHANGES. IN FOLLOW-UP GARDINER CLARIFIED THAT HE THINKS U.S. EXPERIENCE IN OPERATING COMMODITY EXCHANGES MAY HAVE SOME RELEVANCE TO GHANAIAAN SITUATION. HE INDICATED GOG THINKING OF ENCOURAGING CREATION OF BUFFER STOCKS AND AUCTIONING THEM FROM TIME TO TIME, BEGINNING WITH GRAINS AND TUBERS. HE NOTED GHANAIAAN FARMERS OFTEN SOLD UNHARVESTED AND SOMETIMES EVEN UNSOWED CROPS IN A PRIMITIVE "FORWARD MARKET" AND THIS COULD BE IMPROVED.

2. GARDINER WOULD LIKE INFORMATION ON ORGANIZING EXCHANGES FOR AUCTIONS, SETTING UP BROKERS AND JOBBERS, ETC. HE THOUGHT U.S. EXPERIENCE IN CITRUS, FOR EXAMPLE, MIGHT BE RELEVANT. HE FRANK IN SAYING LITERATURE WOULD DO INITIALLY, BUT LATER WOULD LIKE U.S. TO IDENTIFY A RESOURCE PERSON WHO COULD ADVISE GHANA.

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3. NO SUITABLE LITERATURE AVAILABLE AT POST.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS ONE OF SERIES OF REQUESTS FROM GARDINER PERSONALLY (REFTELS) FOR U.S. EXPERIENCE IN WIDE VARIETY OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. WHILE U.S. FACTORS IN MANY CASES, INCLUDING PRESENT ONE, VERY DIFFERENT FROM GHANAIAAN, BELIEVE IT CLEARLY IN U.S. INTEREST TO BE AS RESPONSIVE TO GARDINER'S REQUEST FOR WRITTEN MATERIAL AS POSSIBLE. QUESTION OF HOW TO RESPOND TO REQUEST FOR WHAT AMOUNTS TO TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE DEFERRED.

5. GHANAIAAN MEDIA RECENTLY HAVE BEEN FULL OF ATTACKS BY GOG UPON "MIDDLEPERSONS" AND "MARKET QUEEN MOTHERS," WHO BEING MADE SCAPEGOATS FOR BREAKDOWN IN FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM AND FOR ACCELERATED INFLATION IN FOODSTUFFS. GARDINER APPARENTLY CASTING ABOUT FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PRESENT SYSTEM, WHICH AN INGRAINED PART OF SOCIETY. END COMMENT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: AIR POUCH MATERIAL REQUESTED BY GARDINER. IN ADDITION, WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROVIDE THEORETICAL AND/OR CASE STUDY MATERIAL WITH MORE DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO MARKETING AND MARKET STABILIZATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MATERIAL FOR GARDINER CAN BE QUITE TECHNICAL. PLEASE ADVISE BY CABLE WHAT IS BEING SENT AND WHEN.
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